

MPP Sorbara in court to clear his name

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

Convinced there is no evidence linking him to RCMP land fraud allegations, former Ontario treasurer Greg Sorbara won't speculate why investigators continue to target him in the high-profile case.

"I don't indulge in conspiracy theories. What I really want to do is clear my name," the Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP told The York Region Newspaper Group on the eve of his court action.

"I think you will have to ask the other side on that. I don't know. I simply don't know."

RCMP spokesperson, Cpl. Michele Paradis could not be reached to comment on the case that involves a land sale between the MPP's family firm, The Sorbara Group, and Woodbridge-based Royal Group Technologies, where Mr. Sorbara used to serve as director.

Stonewalled by investigators to clear his name, Mr. Sorbara launched proceedings Friday with the Ontario Superior Court to have his name removed from search warrants.

"Goodwill and patience has its limits," he said, adding he can no longer sit idly by with his integrity under a cloud of suspicion for no reason.

"The expressions of support I have got from not only my own constituents, but across the region and the province have kept me going through some pretty dark times."

Describing his five-month ordeal as a "nightmare," Mr. Sorbara said his court action gives him hope.

Hundreds of pages of police documents fail to cast suspicion on him, Mr. Sorbara said. "There is no basis for my name to be included in those warrants. There is no evidence in there," he said.

"You can imagine this kind of hit me like a ton of bricks. It was out of left field. At that time, the warrants were sealed. I had no idea what the basis of the warrants were. We now know they're baseless."

To make matters worse, he accused police of blocking efforts to clear his name.



GREG SORBARA: Former finance minister says there's no evidence linking him to fraud allegations.

Since stepping down as treasurer Oct. 11, Mr. Sorbara said he has repeatedly offered police whatever additional information required for their investigation.

In January, his lawyers gave submissions to the Department of Justice but, since that time, he said the RCMP have cut all communication between the department and his legal team.

"On March 1, they closed the door. The RCMP said, 'You are not to talk to the Crown attorney any more on this matter,'" Mr. Sorbara said.


His court action comes five months after RCMP raided his family company's offices on the eve of the throne speech and on the first day of the fall legislature.

"I said five months ago this is a terrible mistake. I continue to believe it," Mr. Sorbara said.

The investigation centres on the sale of two properties between Royal Group and The Sorbara Group in 1996 and 1997.

Investigators suggest Mr. Sorbara, who served as a director of Royal from 1994 to 2003 before he re-entered politics, failed to tell the company it was purchasing the land from The Sorbara Group, a direct financial benefit to his family.

But Mr. Sorbara has repeatedly said he was only vaguely aware of the land deal and his brother was managing the Sorbara Group's daily operations.



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